

AMENDMENTS TO LB 633

Introduced by Urban Affairs.

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following
2 new sections:

3 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as
4 the Neighborhood Development Act.

5 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that there is a need to:

6 (1) Stimulate local community development efforts
7 statewide;

8 (2) Build an environment to engage in more effective
9 community development; and

10 (3) Assist community improvement groups which have
11 positive impacts upon the vitality, cohesiveness, and continued
12 viability of both urban and rural communities throughout the state.

13 Sec. 3. The purposes of the Neighborhood Development Act
14 are to:

15 (1) Strengthen neighborhoods and small communities by
16 enhancing their ability to develop community development plans;

17 (2) Coordinate the use of existing programs and funds
18 more efficiently and effectively in support of new programs and
19 initiatives; and

20 (3) Revitalize declining neighborhoods and small
21 communities, maintain the integrity of stable, viable neighborhoods
22 and small communities, and strengthen existing neighborhoods and
23 small communities.

1 Sec. 4. For purposes of the Neighborhood Development Act:

2 (1) College means the College of Public Affairs and
3 Community Service of the University of Nebraska at Omaha;

4 (2) Community improvement group means a neighborhood
5 association or small community;

6 (3) Fund means the Neighborhood Development Grant Fund;

7 (4) Neighborhood association means an organization that
8 is recognized or endorsed by an incorporated city or village or
9 county as representing all of the residents within a specific,
10 defined geographical area, with the organization representing those
11 residents on a wide range of issues through an open meeting process
12 with elected officers and regularly scheduled meetings; and

13 (5) Small community means an unincorporated village or
14 an incorporated city of the second class or village as defined in
15 sections 17-101 and 17-201.

16 Sec. 5. (1) The Neighborhood Development Grant Fund is
17 created. The fund shall be used by the college to carry out its
18 duties and responsibilities under the Neighborhood Development Act.
19 It is the intent of the Legislature that five hundred thousand
20 dollars be appropriated to the fund for FY2009-10.

21 (2) The State Treasurer shall credit to the fund any
22 money (a) appropriated to the fund by the Legislature, (b) donated
23 as gifts, bequests or grants or otherwise contributed to the fund
24 from public or private sources, and (c) received pursuant to this
25 section. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be
26 invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska
27 Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

1 Sec. 6. (1) The college shall award development grants
2 to qualified community improvement groups through an application
3 process. The college shall develop and provide requesting community
4 improvement groups with an application form. The form shall be
5 simple and concise, using nontechnical language, and the questions
6 on the form shall be factual in nature.

7 (2) To be eligible for a grant, the applying community
8 improvement group shall:

9 (a) Demonstrate that the grant funds will be used for a
10 neighborhood or community project;

11 (b) Demonstrate with regard to the project:

12 (i) That it will provide a public benefit;

13 (ii) That it will provide a particular benefit to the
14 applicant's neighborhood or small community;

15 (iii) That it will be completed within one year after
16 receipt of the grant;

17 (iv) That neighborhood or small community residents were
18 involved in the identification and planning for the project and
19 will be involved in the project's execution; and

20 (v) That the project does not duplicate an existing
21 public program;

22 (c) Document verifiable goals for the project for which
23 grant funds are requested; and

24 (d) Document that the applicant will bring to the project
25 a match equivalent in money or in-kind services equal to the
26 following:

27 (i) For a grant of five thousand dollars or less, a match

1 equivalent to at least twenty-five percent of the amount of the
2 grant sought;

3 (ii) For a grant of seven thousand five hundred dollars
4 or less but more than five thousand dollars, a match equivalent to
5 at least twenty-six percent and no more than forty-nine percent of
6 the amount of the grant sought; and

7 (iii) For a grant of ten thousand dollars or less but
8 more than seven thousand five hundred dollars, a match equivalent
9 to fifty percent or more of the amount of the grant sought.

10 (3) A recipient of a grant shall not use the grant
11 funds for administrative support of the recipient, for the planning
12 of a project, or for the administrative costs relating to the
13 planning of a project. Not more than five percent of the grant
14 funds received shall be expended by the recipient of the grant
15 for expenses incurred in administering the grant. A recipient of
16 a grant may not receive more than one grant for the same project,
17 and a project may not receive more than one grant in any one year.
18 No grant to a single community improvement group shall exceed ten
19 thousand dollars.

20 Sec. 7. In assessing the applications received from
21 community improvement groups, the college shall weigh the relative
22 merits of the applications, giving consideration to the following
23 factors:

24 (1) The amount of the match;

25 (2) The level of involvement by persons living in the
26 community;

27 (3) The community needs reflected in the application;

1 (4) The likelihood of the successful completion of the
2 project;

3 (5) The innovative character of the proposed solution;
4 and

5 (6) The efficiency of the proposed allocation of state,
6 local, public, and private resources in solving the local community
7 need.

8 Sec. 8. Upon completion of a project for which a grant
9 has been received or within one year from the date of receipt of
10 a grant, whichever comes first, the recipient community improvement
11 group shall provide the college with an evaluation reporting the
12 results of the project.

13 Sec. 9. The college shall submit an annual report to
14 the Governor and the Legislature on or before November 1, 2010,
15 and on or before November 1 of each year thereafter listing the
16 recipients and amounts of grants made pursuant to the Neighborhood
17 Development Act in the previous year, the impact of the grants, and
18 an evaluation of each project's performance based on the documented
19 reports of the recipient community improvement groups.